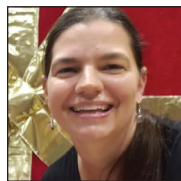




Business Alliance Awards, p.16



Angella Foster, p.9

Hundreds Attend Summit For Public Servants at GMS

by Matt Neufeld



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

It was standing room only at the Public Servant Summit at Greenbelt Middle School on Saturday.

Several hundred people, including many federal government workers who recently were fired as part of the mass federal Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) job-cutting actions, attended a free constituent services job summit at Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) on Saturday, March 1, hosted by city, county, state and federal government officials in Maryland.

The many governmental, political and union officials who were organizers of the event included U.S. Representative Glenn Ivey

(District 4) and Prince George's County Councilmember-At-Large Jolene Ivey. Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan and Greenbelt City Manager Josué Salmerón also attended the event.

In the cafeteria, a capacity crowd heard from, and addressed questions to, a panel of leaders of various labor unions representing federal employees. Those officials gave updates about actions to fight the DOGE firings, calling them illegal, unethical

See **SUMMIT**, page 11

Youth Musical Secret Circus Delights as it Demonstrates Unity

by Melissa Sites



PHOTO BY AMANDA LARSEN

Gabriel Crompton as the Ringmaster is surrounded by the cast members of Secret Circus.

An enthusiastic and appreciative audience filled the house for the 26th annual production of the Greenbelt Youth Musical, Secret Circus, directed and written by Greenbelt Recreation's Performing Arts Coordinator Chris Cherry, with musical direction by Stefan Brodd and production design by Nicole DeWald.

With a bare stage, a few rolling set pieces, simple choreography and beautiful costumes, the emphasis of the production is on the cast of 29 young performers, who bring enthusiasm and joy to the catchy tunes and clever

wordplay of Cherry's work. Every song brings the audience to loud applause, interspersed with happy cheers.

The musical showcases the talents of several strong leads, while also building ensembles who work together to present show pieces like the Playing Cards, the Equestrians and the little dogs with their mischievous leader Malarkey (Levi Baker). Kira Wilkinson as Madame Zara commands the stage as the fortuneteller who runs the circus.

See **MUSICAL**, page 6

Braveboy Dems' Candidate for County Executive



PHOTO COURTESY BRAVEBOY CAMPAIGN

Aisha Braveboy

Polls for the special primary election opened Tuesday morning March 4, allowing voters to cast their ballot and pick their nominee for Prince George's County's next county executive, a seat left open by Angela Alsobrooks after she was elected to the U.S. Senate last November.

Twelve candidates were on the ballot – nine Democrats and three Republicans. Jolene Ivey was among the Democrats but withdrew from the race after a large number of mail-in ballots had already been cast.

Preliminary results show Aisha Braveboy, current State's Attorney, won the Democratic nomination, with a lead of over 20 percent ahead of the next highest vote-getters, Rushern Baker and Calvin Hawkins. Preliminary results Wednesday morning showed the three Republican candidates – George McDermott, Jesse Peed and Jonathan White – separated by between 0.5 percent and 1.5 percent in a race too close to call.

The Democratic and Republican nominees will compete for the county executive position in the Special Election General Election that will take place on June 3. Mail-in ballots will be sent by April 19 and early voting begins May 28. Voter registration for the general election closes on May 13.

In a strongly Democratic county, Braveboy is likely to become the next county executive in June.

What Goes On

Monday, March 10 7:30 p.m., No City Council Meeting: National League of Cities, Congressional Cities Conference
Wednesday, March 12 7:30 p.m., Council Meeting, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.

Grocery Costs, Tariffs, Federal Funding Cuts Loom Large for Meals on Wheels

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY KAREN YOH

Meals on Wheels of College Park serves approximately 60 Greenbelt residents. A third of the organization's funding is federally sourced.

Like many others, Lisa Ealley is noticing the rising cost of eggs, among other things. She's chair of Meals on Wheels in College Park, and as the cost of groceries rise, the organization is simultaneously bracing for tariffs to increase costs further and for a federal funding freeze and impending cuts to their budget, about a third of which comes from the federal government via various grants. "No one seems to understand the trickle-down effect. We've been aware of this the last six months, and now it's come to fruition," says Ealley of the federal cuts and policies.

Meals on Wheels of College

Park is the only remaining Meals on Wheels program in Prince George's County – one in Hyattsville closed due to lack of financing and one in Cheverly, operating from Prince George's County Hospital, closed when the hospital did. The College Park program feeds about 200 people a day, including many Greenbelters – Ealley estimates around 60.

The program relies heavily on federal funds received through county grants, from which they were told last week to anticipate less. County councilmembers who allocate funding to various

See **MEALS**, page 10

PGCPS Administration Meets With Council for Worksession

by Erik Hanson

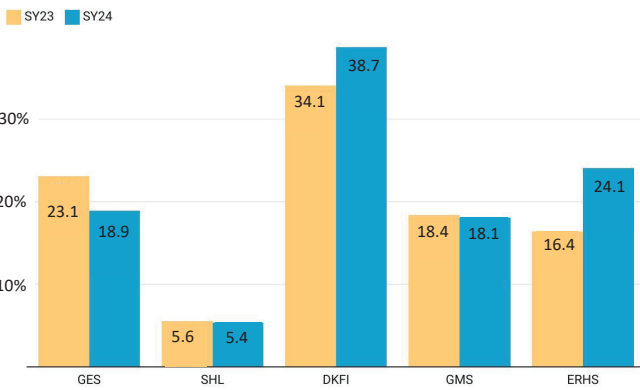
Several members of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) administration, including Superintendent Millard House II, attended the February 25 worksession of the Greenbelt City Council. The discussion covered recent federal changes, the academic performance of Greenbelt schools, a possible shared use agreement for Green-

belt Middle School athletic fields and the Springhill Lake Elementary School building project.

House noted that PGCPS had responded to recent changes in federal immigration policy enforcement by creating an immigration resource hub. He said that there was no increase in

See **PGCPS**, page 8

Greenbelt Schools Math Scores



Created with Datawrapper

CHART BY RYAN COLASANTI, DATA FROM PGCPS

The percentage of students proficient in math at each school in Greenbelt for school years 2023 and 2024, according to the data presented by PGCPS administration at the worksession

Letters to the Editor

Now Is the Time

How distressing to learn that council’s commitment to JEDI was not passed unanimously! Greenbelt is Great! Greenbelt is Brave! Greenbelt is fully committed to justice, diversity, equity and inclusion! Mayor Jordan, Mr. Roberts and Ms. Pope, do not be afraid. Now is the time to

be united and strong in protecting your constituents and our democracy. I urge you three to read On Tyranny by Timothy Snyder and How We Learn to Be Brave by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. “United we stand, divided we fall.”

Carolyn Larkin



Don't forget to set your clocks forward on Sunday

Correction

On page 7 of last week’s issue, the member of the Black History and Culture Committee pictured second from the left was Lisa Gordon.



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org
Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
MARCH 7th - 13th

Anora (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2024) (139 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 7:30 PM
Sat. 7:30 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 2:45 PM (OC)
Tues. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM
Mon. 5:15 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM

No Other Land
(NR) (2024) (95 mins)
Arabic with English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM
Sun. 2:45 PM
Mon. 5:45 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sat. 8:00 PM
Sun. 5:30 PM
Mon. 3:00 PM
Tues. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM

Cowboy Bebop: The Movie
(R) (2001) (115 mins)
Cinema Pop! In Japanese
with English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 8:00 PM



- Rosanne Douglas

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

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HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Carol Slatin enjoys a mai tai while reading the News Review in Jamaica.



PHOTO COURTESY CAROL SLATIN



PHOTO COURTESY SUZETTE AGANS

With the Pacific Ocean in the background, Suzette Agans stands on volcanic rock from the 2018 eruption on the big island in Hawaii on January 24.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Anora

Winning a staggering five trophies at this year’s Oscars, the film from director Sean Baker is an audacious, thrilling and comedic variation on a modern-day Cinderella story. Best Actress winner Mikey Madison captivates as Ani, a young sex worker from Brooklyn whose life takes an unexpected turn when she meets and impulsively marries Vanya, the impetuous son of a Russian billionaire. However, when Vanya’s parents catch wind of the union, they send their henchmen to annul the marriage, setting off a wild chase through the streets of New York. Flipping fairy tale lore upside down, Anora, like its titular anti-princess, may make you laugh and still break your heart.

No Other Land

For half a decade, Basel Adra, a Palestinian activist, films his community of Masafer Yatta being destroyed by Israel’s occupation, as he builds an unlikely alliance with a journalist from the other side, Israeli Yuval Abraham, who joins his fight. An elegantly assembled diary of the Palestinian experience, the film is a harrowing document that leaves traces of hope for a better future. The film garnered a win for Best Documentary at this year’s Oscars in spite of not being distributed to theaters in the U.S. Said critic Calum Baker of Radio Times: “Though undoubtedly grave, this stark film finds heart and humanity in the relationship that develops between Adra and Abraham, and in the dignity with which the citizens of Masafer Yatta resist their gradual expulsion.”

Cowboy Bebop: The Movie

In this animated feature based on the Japanese anime television series that aired from 1998 to 1999, a slacker (Koichi Yamadera) and a former policeman (Unshō Ishizuka) lead a gang of bounty hunters to find a terrorist who detonated a bomb.

Obituaries

Romell Sandoval



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Romell Sandoval

Romell Sabanete Sandoval Roca, 50, of Greenbelt and San Marcos, El Salvador, died suddenly on January 20, 2025, in Fridley, Minn., after his car was struck by a speeding drunk driver. A resident of Greenbelt since 2001, Romell lived at 24 Court Ridge Road until 2019 when he moved with his wife and son to Greendale Place in Lakewood. He had been staying in Minnesota to help his father with his construction business.

Romell was a professional sign-maker by trade who first learned his craft painting signs and murals by hand in his native El Salvador and was highly regarded at his two places of employment in Minnesota. At Signation Sign Group, his skills afforded him the unique role of working in both production and installation, and at The Imagine Group, where he was a laser table operator cutting large format fabric digital edge graphics for corporate clients, he had begun training others and was also helping members of his team to advance their English skills. His work at Imagine will be on display in Target stores in early spring.

Romell was also a professionally trained bartender, having graduated from the Professional Bartending School in Arlington, Va. He earned accolades for his expertly crafted cocktails as a mixologist and bar captain at Martin’s Crosswinds in Greenbelt and at the former David’s restaurant in Maryland Live! Casino, and enjoyed creating his own signature drinks for family and friends.

Romell grew up in San Marcos, outside the capital city of San Salvador, where he was raised by his maternal grandparents, Virgilio and Blanca Luz. As a child he spent every moment outside, playing soccer, basketball and exploring the natural wonders of El Salvador. Encouraged by his

grandfather, with whom he had a special relationship, he nurtured a life-long love for animals, keeping many turtles and rabbits and frequenting the local zoo. He earned a scholarship for his high school studies, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in industrial electronics; he also studied music, art and commercial drawing. Prior to coming to the U.S., he served on the El Salvador police force, where he had been the fastest runner in the Academy.

After coming to the U.S., Romell worked in construction for many years as a siding mechanic until he met his future wife Kristin, who encouraged and supported him in returning to his true vocation as a sign man. He worked at numerous sign shops in the area, including the University of Maryland, and learned all aspects of the business, from sales to installation, even running his own sign business for a time.

A life-long learner and natural athlete, Romell was competitive in his quest to be the best at whatever he did, whether it was playing the flute, playing chess or playing basketball. He was extremely proud of his son Daniel, loved to talk and held deep affection and love for those closest

to him. He treasured Greenbelt Lake, with all its resident turtles, as well as Greenbelt’s forests, and had a reverence for indigenous cultures. Romell adored his dogs Lucky Scamp and Buggy, their friend Kylo and his rabbits Angelo, Winnie, Bennie, Teddy and Dixie. He always enjoyed a good boxing match, soccer game and seafood meal – he could eat anyone under the table. His true generosity, strength of spirit, lively talks about aliens and joy of living life in the moment will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

In addition to his son Daniel, Romell is survived by his wife of 20 years, the love of his life, Kristin Fletcher; his mother María Blanca Luz Roca de Linares (Luis); father Néstor Bladimir Sandoval Alonzo; grandmother María Blanca Luz Alvarenga de Roca; grandmother Josefa Henriqueta Sandoval Pino; brother Néstor Bladimir Sandoval Roca; half-sisters Yessenia Beatriz Roca (Milton), Kenia Soraya Sandoval Arias, Karen Sandoval Ostorga and Mayesnes Yamileth Sandoval Mata; half-brothers Luis and Fernando Linares Roca and

See OBITUARIES, page 12



Our condolences to the family and friends of Romell Sandoval who died on January 20. His love of life will be missed by all. A celebration of life service will be planned for late spring.

Congratulations to the Greenbelt Middle School Science Bowl team, who successfully defended their county title and won the regional competition. They will compete in the nationals in April.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Memorial Service
Aphrodite Matsakis

There will be a gathering and liturgy service to mark the one-year anniversary of Aphrodite Matsakis’ death next Saturday, March 8 from 10 to 11 a.m. at St. Theodore’s Greek Orthodox Church at 7101 Cipriano Road, in Lanham.

At the end of the service there will be a memorial prayer for her and then a light lunch at her daughter’s house from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 65 Ridge Road, Unit H in Greenbelt, directly across the street from the Greenbelt Elementary School parking lot. Lunch will be outdoors, weather permitting. Theodora and Magdalena invite all to join them for some or all of these events.



“O SON OF SPIRIT! The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice. ... By its aid thou shalt see with thine own eyes and not through the eyes of others, and shalt know of thine own knowledge and not through the knowledge of thy neighbor.” – Bahá’u’lláh



Greenbelt Bahá’í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION

Community Center Room 114

15 Crescent Rd

ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community

OR - Join us on ZOOM!

For ZOOM link:

CCG1985+owneregroups.io

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors

Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc

301-474-5410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate hope with us.

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704

301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for

Worship & Sunday School

at 10:00 AM

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

We are an Open and Affirming Church

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD

www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*

Sunday Mass:

Sat vigil 5pm*

Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am

Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.

www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered Biblical & Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD

www.greenbeltbaptist.org

We Preach Christ Crucified

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

6905 Greenbelt Rd Greenbelt, MD 20770

Ash Wednesday:

March 5, 7am and 7 pm

Lenten Services:

Thursdays 7pm

(March 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10)

The Bible Says...

Lent-Week #1

Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance

Matthew 3:8

MCF COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Worship Services

10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Rd.)

MCFcc.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725

Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

March 9, 2025 at 3:00 pm

The Gift of Time

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Carol Boston

In the spirit of our March theme (Generosity) and our 2025 PBUUC Stewardship Campaign, we’ll explore the ways in which we are each stewards of our individual time. We’ll also consider how investing intentional time in self-care can help us make the most of the time we spend with others.

Streaming on PBUUC’s Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, March 12 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations
- **Women’s History Month Proclamation**
* **Minutes**
Administrative Reports
* **Committee Reports**

LEGISLATION

- Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend Section 4 “Creation; Qualifications; Compensation” of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the Council; *-2nd Reading and Adoption*

OTHER BUSINESS

- Review of State/County Legislation
- Federal Earmark Priorities for Discussion
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
* Meetings
* Stakeholders
* Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board
* Approval of the Fourth of July Contract

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.
This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

MEETINGS FOR MARCH 10 - 14

Monday, March 10, **NO MEETING**

Tuesday, March 11 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES, On the Agenda: Finalize Planning for Arbor Day Event, Possible Activities Acknowledging the 25th Year Since ACT Was Established**

Wednesday, March 12 at 7:30 pm, **COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday, March 13 at 5:30 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Community Pledge:

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/known-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

TRAIN THE TRAINER - KNOW YOUR RIGHTS SESSION

Saturday, March 8, 10 am
Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

We are excited to offer, in partnership with Sanabria & Associates, a “Train the Trainer” session to strengthen our collective capacity to support immigrant communities. We will equip community leaders, organizers, and staff with the knowledge and tools to educate others on their rights when interacting with ICE. Not only will this session provide essential information on ICE interactions, but it will also train attendees on how to conduct their own “Know Your Rights” training for community members who may not have access to these resources.

Register at <https://forms.office.com/r/WeyfCNkY3n>.

Contact Gizelle Alvarez at galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2020.

AGING SOLO

The second Friday of each month March 14, - August 8, 1-2:30 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road

Aging Solo is a nationally recognized program that empowers individuals to take control of their aging journey. Through this program, participants will engage in self-reflection, develop a comprehensive support network, and implement practical plans to enhance their quality of life.

To register, please call (240) 424-0302.

COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

For 6 months your food scraps can be collected for free to reduce food waste and return valuable compost to Greenbelt. Compost Crew will pick up your food scraps weekly and deliver them to their Compost Outpost at Trinity

Questions? Luisa Robles: lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2153.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES SURVEY

Dear Greenbelt Residents,

As the City’s Constituent Services Coordinator, I am committed to ensuring that our city meets your needs. I’d like to invite you to share your feedback by completing our Constituent Services Survey. Your feedback offer us guidance on how to improve constituent services. **The survey is open through March 14 and I encourage every resident to participate.**

You can find the survey by scanning the QR code or by visiting <https://ow.ly/xKzM50V6ls3>. You may also contact me directly if you would like a paper copy of the survey or the survey in another language.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

Thank you,

Gizelle Alvarez

Constituent Services Feedback Survey for The City of Greenbelt



DONATE TO THE PINK PANTRY

Providing free access to menstruation products for low-income residents in Greenbelt. You can help donate by hosting a community drive or through individual donations.

Seeking donations of pads, heat pads, feminine wipes, cotton washcloths, sensitive laundry detergent, sensitive feminine wash, sensitive body wash & bar soap.

Contact Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov.

DONATE TO THE GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

Providing support for low-income Greenbelt parents with nursery items. You can help donate by hosting a community drive, through individual donations, or volunteering at our quarterly distribution.

Seeking donations of gentle laundry detergent, laundry detergent pods, basic thermometers, baby/child nail clippers, night lights, and baby proofing products.

Contact Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS BY LUMINIS HEALTH

Thursday, March 13 from 10 am - 1 pm
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

First come, first serve. Luminis Health will be offering FREE health screenings, including blood pressure screenings, diabetes screenings, and cholesterol screenings.

To register, call (240) 424-0302.



FREE SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES

Greenbelt Animal Services is providing FREE SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES for citizens of Greenbelt.



If you have a pet in need of this service and you live within the City of Greenbelt, please email us at animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov to receive an application.

S.A.I.L. WITH GIVES

Senior Avoiding Isolation & Loneliness

The SAIL Program in partner with the GIVES aims to support older adults age 60+ or individuals 50 + who have a disability, to reduce feelings of isolation while working to increase community engagement by broadening their access to vital supports.

SAIL provides friendly, in-person visits or cphone calls, free nursing assessments, community student nursing visits, mental health counseling, case management visits, information and referral of resources, and so much more!

Contact us at (240) 244-6010 or at ngarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

SAIL is also seeking volunteers who are deeply committed to making a positive impact on society and humanity. Call (240) 244-6010 to volunteer!

Greenbelt Youth Musical

SECRET CIRCUS

Saturday, March 8. TWO SHOWINGS! 2 pm & 7 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Purchase Tickets for the Greenbelt Youth Musical: SECRET CIRCUS by Christopher Cherry!

As the tide of fascism rises in 1930's Europe, a traveling circus races against time to smuggle a disabled girl named Anya to safety.

Tickets (\$5) available at the Greenbelt Community Center business office, (301) 397-2208. Advance purchase highly recommended.

APPLY FOR STUDIO SPACE

Fine artists and artisans: apply for studio space at the Greenbelt Community Center 24 hr access. \$238.94/month starting in July. By April 1: request a studio tour (required). Applications due April 9, 4pm. Visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

ARTFUL AFTERNOON

Artful Afternoon March 9nd, 2025 Enjoy a FREE all-ages art workshop at Springhill Lake Recreation Center! Make Circus Animal Ears with local artist Vanessa Zanin! Pre-registration recommended: <https://sugeni.us/Vp8p>, walk-ins welcome!

WINTER SOCIAL FT. DC HAND DANCE CLUB

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2 PM

Greenbelt Community Center Gym, 15 Crescent Road

Join Greenbelt Recreation and the D.C. Hand Dance Club as we learn a unique style of dance that originated in Washington D.C. in the mid 1950’s. The D.C. Hand Dance Club will teach this smooth style of swing evolved from Jitterbug.

All levels are welcome! Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240) 542-2056, pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov, for more information. FREE, no registration required. Events are 60+ (Open to All Ages)

FREE SENIOR PLANET CLASSES - MEDIA & HEALTH FOR ADULTS 60+. FREE. IN-PERSON, 11 AM - 12:15 PM

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Rd

March 18. Mobile Health Apps

Introducing common health applications on your mobile device.

These classes are facilitated by Flora Li, Brendy Maddox, and Katherine Farzin. To register or view a full list of classes, email Kelly Lange at klange@greenbeltmd.gov or call Brendy Maddox at (240) 424-0302.

PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY FIRE/EMS SUMMER STAFFING PLAN FOR GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Greenbelt, MD - The City of Greenbelt is disappointed in the County’s decision to reassign 24 career personnel from Greenbelt Station 835 on July 1, resulting in the removal of all career personnel from our Station. County Fire Chief Tiffany Green and County leadership ordered the redeployment of 55 career firefighters from Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, Bunker Hill, and Bowie Station. We are gravely concerned with the impact in response times of emergencies in Greenbelt and our surrounding areas.

Greenbelt will continue to work in tandem with College Park and Berwyn Heights alongside County leadership in addressing our concerns and fighting for the City of Greenbelt.

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Office of the County Executive
countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-4131

Office of the County Fire Chief
tdgreen@co.pg.md.us
(301) 883-5200

At-Large County Council Member Hawkins
At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-2195

County Council Member District 4
councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-3094

Letters of Support to keep/return career staffing to Greenbelt Station 835 can be sent to:

City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or council@greenbeltmd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Trees, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

BIKE TO WORK DAY 2025 REGISTRATION OPEN!

Bike to Work Day is Thursday, May 15, 2025. Join us at more than 100 pit stops in DC, MD, and VA for this FREE event for a fun and healthy way to start your day. The first 18,000 who register and attend at a pit stop receive a FREE T-shirt. Free giveaways, food, and beverages at participating locations, while supplies last.

Register at biketoworkmetrodcc.org.

GREENBELT WELCOME KITS!

We’re looking for materials to add to the City’s *Welcome Kits* for new residents and visitors. Please drop-off to the Municipal Building, Chondria Andrews, 25 Crescent Road **no later than 4 pm on April 25**. Email candrews@greenbeltmd.gov for more information or assistance.

MAD Theater Presents A Play and a Cabaret

by Anne Gardner



Courtney McIntosh, left, and Hope Shapiro rehearse a scene in *Almost, Maine*.

Weathering the storms, both meteorological and political, members of Goddard’s Music and Drama Club (MAD) have thrown themselves into producing both a play and a musical cabaret this winter. Over the weekends of March 7 through 22, they will present the play *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani, and each performance will be preceded by 30 minutes of musical cabaret.

Almost, Maine is a play about love, loss and a bit of magic in a fictional town. It consists of nine short stories about the residents of *Almost, Maine*, who

find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected ways. The cabaret will also have a romantic comedy theme, perfect for chasing away the winter blues.

The play is directed by Aly Bayens and James Pildis, who were featured onstage this past fall in *Mary Poppins*, and is produced by Greenbelter Jon Gardner. Tickets must be bought in advance and shown to the security guard at the entrance to the Barney and Bea Recreation Center on Good Luck Road. Visit madtheater.org.

Artist’s Studio Space Will Be Available July: Apply in April

Greenbelt Recreation is now accepting applications for studio space at the Community Center through the city’s Artist in Residence Program. New residencies will begin in July. This opportunity is open to fine artists and artisans ages 18 and up, including both residents and nonresidents of Greenbelt. The program is best suited for artists who are interested in being part of a professional, creative community and who are interested in engaging

members of the general public through teaching, studio open houses and service activities. No vacancies are anticipated, but a limited number of incumbents reapply to the program annually and new applicants are also invited to apply for consideration. Learn more at bit.ly/3R2URY9. Contact staff at 240-542-2057 by Tuesday, April 1 to schedule a tour (required) and apply by Wednesday, April 9.



Marc Manheimer, Annie Haber and the News Review went on a safari in Tanzania. Here, they are at the Mary Leakey memorial in the Olduvai Gorge.

MUSICAL continued from page 1

Hannah Baker grounds the show with her calm portrayal of Anya, a young woman whose physical disability marks her as a target for the Paper Doll Police, a group of dangerous authoritarians whose hatred of difference threatens the unique folks of the Circus. Ezra Pitts gives Ezra the Lion terrific comic energy, shining as bright as his gorgeous costume. The side-show prodigies, including “seal boy” Rufus (Shawford Jackson) and “elephant princess” Titania

(Ida Ellison) capture hearts with their wit, humor and dignity. Leo Casalini, as Colonel Maximoff of the Paper Doll Police, gives chills as he describes the evil goals of his party’s regime: to stamp out anyone who does not or will not conform.

Characters did not use JEDI keywords like justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, but rather learned and demonstrated these precious values as they grew to

see beyond surface differences to unite against fear and threats. Murmurs of approbation from the audience indicated that this play was well chosen for 2025.

The final performances of *Secret Circus* will be held in the Community Center gym on Saturday, March 8 at 2 and 7 p.m. The production will surely sell out, so buy tickets soon at the Community Center business office.



From left, Jharna Ojha, Mari Loucaides, Rebekah Castleman and Maeve Waters ride their horses across the stage.



Clowns from left, Ellie Young-Wilson, Eleanor Cooper, Theo Larsen, Leo Casalini and Wren Adams perform at *Secret Circus*.

- Photos by Amanda Larsen



Caspaen Jackson plays Marco. Behind him are Donovan Amin, left, and Ezra Pitts as the lion.

NO LAUGHING MATTER

A Comedy by Jeff Dunne

FINAL WEEKEND!!!

8PM SHOWTIMES

FRIDAY

MARCH 7

&

SATURDAY

MARCH 8

GAC

SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS OR VISIT GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG

City’s Free Curbside Food Scraps Program Is Still Open

by Tom Taylor

Registration remains open for the third round of enrollment in the City of Greenbelt’s free curbside food scrap collection program. Through the program, Greenbelt households can receive free curbside food scrap collection through the end of August. The openings are available because some residents who had pre-registered did not complete the sign-up process.

Residents who join will be helping the launch of Greenbelt’s newest environmental sustainability effort, a pilot project that began in February 2024.

Participating in the program helps the city meet its sustainability goals, notes Luisa Robles, sustainability coordinator for the City of Greenbelt. “Composting food scraps reduces the amount of food waste that Greenbelt sends to the Prince George’s County landfill,” Robles said, “and that also lessens the city’s share of greenhouse gas emissions caused by food rotting in the landfill.”

Sign-up

Sign-up for the program is on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents should register on the Compost Crew website, compostcrew.com/greenbelt, or by scanning the QR code below.



Residents without access to digital media may sign up by calling Compost Crew Customer Service at 301-202-4450 or Robles at 240-542-2153.

The program is open to all Greenbelt residents, who may join individually or in combination with close-by neighbors to help fill the seven-gallon bin for weekly pickup. After a \$20 one-time charge to purchase the collection bin, pick-up service is free until the end of August. New participants will join the 320 households that enrolled in the first two phases of the program.

Compost Crew, a locally-owned food scrap recycling business, will pick up the food scraps weekly and deliver them to their compost processing facility – named Compost Outpost – at Trinity Assembly of God Church on Good Luck Road. High-quality compost will be returned to Greenbelt for use as a soil-enriching additive in community gardens and public spaces.



PHOTO COURTESY COMPOST CREW

What does the composting site look like?

Other goals of the project include assisting food production in community gardens, improving soil health and demonstrating the benefits of returning a valuable recycled resource to the community.

Benefits

Program participants also can benefit by gaining a better understanding of their food consumption patterns and what ends up being thrown away, Robles said. “With this knowledge, you can save money at the grocery store and reduce food waste by buying less of what usually gets thrown away,” she added.

One program participant told Robles: “When I first started setting out food waste for this program, I saw that I was buying a lot of hummus that I ended up throwing away. It made me aware of my hummus usage, and I have changed my shopping accordingly.”

Food waste in the United States is estimated to be 30 to 40 percent of the food supply, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In Prince George’s County, a 2022 waste study for the Department of the Environment found that food waste comprised 22 percent of the residential waste stream.

The first delivery of finished compost to Greenbelt community gardens was completed in October. Another delivery is set for this spring. Gardeners use the compost to add nutrients to the soil and to improve soil texture in their garden plots.

High-quality compost is a key factor for the soil improvement and food production components of the project. The compost delivered is registered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and exceeds all acceptable standards. Lab test results showed high quantities of valuable nutri-

ents contained in the finished compost, and it was rated as having reached ideal maturity.

Eric Raun, coordinator for Henry’s Hollow community garden, described the finished compost delivered as “of excellent quality.” He added: “All the gardeners who I talked to in Henry’s Hollow were very pleased and are looking forward to another delivery in the spring. It’s great to have a program

whereby the community enriches the gardens of Greenbelt.”

The program is a partnership of the City of Greenbelt, Compost Crew and Trinity Assembly of God, with funding through a grant from the USDA.

For any questions, email Robles at lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov or call 240-542-2153.

Make a Difference Now: Hunger Close to Home

The community coming together can stamp out Greenbelt hunger, even during these most uncertain times. The impact of a fully stocked pantry is profound. Keeping the shelves stocked at the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association food pantry at St. Hugh’s, which were emptied during the holidays, takes a community effort. PORCH will pick up nonperishable food placed on porches in March as scheduled below.

Sunday, March 9 – by 11 a.m. at the 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway.

Saturday, March 15 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road.

Sunday, March 16 – by noon P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors), contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com; he will come by and take donations from the porch after 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 16 – by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village.

Sunday, March 23 – by 5 p.m. for 11 Court Ridge Road, 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road, 8 and 10 Courts Southway and Lakeside Drive.



Chelsea Wood Loses Heat, Hot Water Again; Town Hall Meets

by Erica Johns

Chelsea Wood residents just can’t get a break, unless it’s a break in a pipe.

Residents awoke Tuesday, March 4, to a new hot water outage throughout the community – and a new heat outage in 13 of 47 buildings. Hot water was restored later that day. Metropolitan Condominium Management informed residents that the heat outage was due to a previous repair beginning to leak, and that crews were digging to locate the

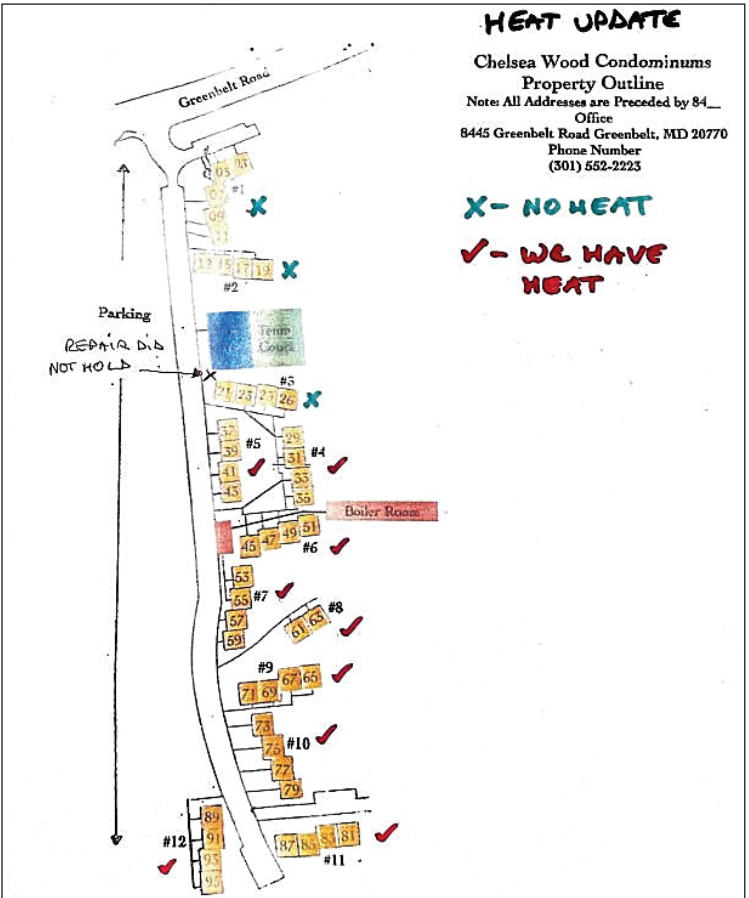
leak source.

On January 30, the entire community had heat for the first time this heating season, only for half the complex to lose it again February 12 and regain it February 24. A town hall for homeowners was planned for Wednesday, March 5, for the condo board to share information and homeowners to ask questions. It was to be the first community meeting since heat began failing in October 2024.



PHOTO BY JESSICA FOMALONT

The broken pipes and excavated area are shown after the pipe repair near building 8459 in Chelsea Wood.



Chelsea Wood buildings without heat are those nearest to Greenbelt Road.

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News Review

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- 90-min. walking tour
- tour of historic house

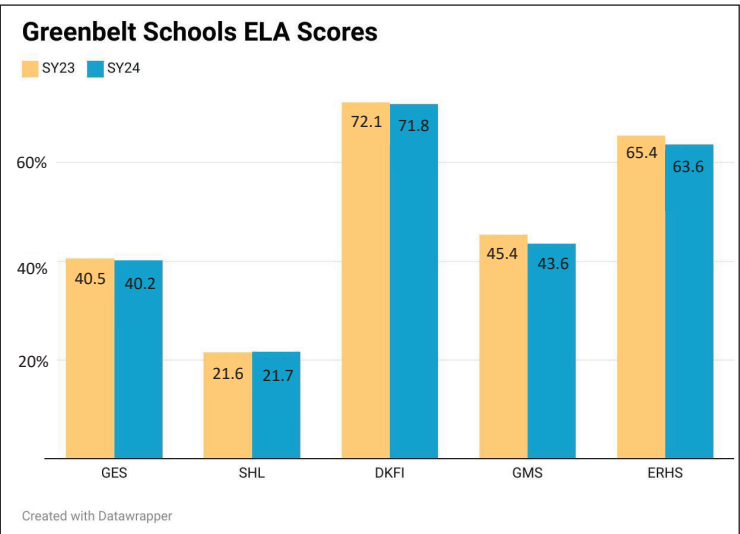
HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR

Saturday March 15 10:00 a.m.

FOR TICKETS, SCAN QR CODE

School News

PGCPS continued from page 1



The percentage of students proficient in English Language Arts (ELA) at schools in Greenbelt for school years 2023 and 2024, in a chart created from data presented by PGCPS at the worksession

absences or withdrawals from the many immigrant children in county schools.

State Report Cards

PGCPS Chief Accountability Officer Douglas Strader shared information on the academic performance of Greenbelt schools. The English and math test scores of Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) (K-8), Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), Greenbelt Elementary (GES), Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) and Springhill Lake Elementary (SHL) have all been relatively stable over the last year, he reported. GES dropped 4.1 percent in math proficiency from school year (SY) 23 to SY 24, while DKFI improved 4.5 percent in math proficiency levels. GES, SHL and GMS performed below state averages in English and math. ERHS performed below the state average in math but made the greatest change among Greenbelt schools between SY 23 and SY 24 with a 7.7 percent improvement in math proficiency, and it performed above the state average in English. DKFI performed above state averages in both English and math. GES will be getting additional support as it has been identified as an Additional Target Support and Improvement School (ATSI) due to academic shortfalls (see the January 30 issue).

Strader pointed to the high number of multilingual students learning to speak English as a factor in Greenbelt schools performing below state averages. At SHL the rate of multilingual students is approximately 50 percent compared to a 10 percent state average; he also noted as contributing factors the autism program at GES and a GMS special education program called the Community Reference Instructional Program which serves 50 of the most needy students. Councilmember Jenni Pompei pointed out that GMS is also a TAG school but Strader did not have the number of TAG students at the school.

GMS Fields

Several councilmembers noted that the City of Greenbelt has been seeking to partner with PGCPS for more than six years to have access to the Greenbelt Middle School athletic fields in exchange for helping with maintenance. PGCPS expressed willingness to explore the idea. Councilmember Silke Pope pointed out that while willingness

had been expressed before, no concrete steps have been taken. PGCPS Chief Operating Officer Charoscar Coleman said that they were committed to restarting the conversation about the athletic fields.

Springhill Lake Plans

Shawn Matlock, PGCPS Director of Alternative Infrastructure Planning and Development, presented the design for the new Springhill Lake Elementary School. Work on the site is scheduled to begin in August 2026 and the new school should be ready for occupancy by July 2028. During construction, Springhill Lake students will relocate to the former Greenbelt Middle School building currently occupied by DKFI, which is scheduled to move in 2026 to Lanham, where it will share a building with the Robert Goddard Montessori School.

Councilmembers expressed concern about SHL's relocation to the DKFI building due to its poor heating and cooling systems. They also expressed concern that the 850-student capacity of the new Springhill Lake building would be inadequate.

Life Line Offers Health Screenings at Legion

Residents living in and around Greenbelt can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 will host this community event on Wednesday, March 19.

Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL cholesterol levels; diabetes risk; kidney and thyroid function and more.

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Pre-registration is required. Consultants will work to create a package based on age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit lifelinescreening.com to register.



ERHS History Day Winners Advance to County Contest

by Deanna Dawson

Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) held its History Day competition on February 4. Students from grades 9 through 12 prepared projects in one of five formats – documentary (individual or group), exhibit (individual or group), paper (individual only), performance (individual or group) or website (individual or group) – to address the 2025 National History Day theme of Rights and Responsibilities in History. Seventeen judges from Prince George's County Public Schools and the community worked in pairs to review and score the projects' historical quality and presentation quality, and to interview the student presenters. History teacher Victoria Patch and Social Studies teacher Judith Barrera, the ERHS National History Day coordinators, then ranked the scored projects to determine the winners in each category.

Paul Gil was named the Grand Champion Winner for his documentary R2P: The Responsibility to Protect. First and second place winners and honorable mentions in each category advanced to the county competition which is currently undergoing virtual review, with the in-person final round and interviews taking place on March 22 at Kenmoor Middle School in Landover. Winners in that competition will advance to the state History Day contest at University of Maryland, Baltimore County on May 3. The National History Day contest will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park from June 8 to 12.

ERHS History Day Winners

Individual Documentary

First Place: Paul Gil, R2P: The Responsibility to Protect

Second Place (tie): Gabriella Mendez, The FDA and The Battle for AIDS Treatment; Amariah Watson, Children Are Just Children! The Keating-Owens Child Labor Act

Group Documentary

First Place: Tristan Godoy, Jeff Wang, Christina Lu and Onyebuchi Nwaka', Justice for the Radium Girls

Second Place: Chidimma Anuforo, Lawrencia Odoemena and Katelyn Ventura Sorto, The McMartin Preschool Case

Individual Exhibit

First Place: Xiaqing Cai, Kent State: The Shooting that Shook America

Second Place: Erik Konchou, The Right to Remain Silent: Miranda Rights

Honorable Mention: Livia Luu, The Fruit That Killed a Country: The 1954 Guatemalan Coup

Group Exhibit

First Place: Elisabeth Beckman and Evelyn Carey, PAN AM Airlines Exposed: Effects on Stewardesses

Second Place: Sheily Deleon and Lamar Zaza, Children and Immigration

Honorable Mention: Charleye Muhammed and Jalia Shelman, How R&B Changed History

Paper

First Place: Magali Mgum-Sone, The Death of a Maritime Dream: The Titanic's Role in Safety Law and Coastal Responsibility

Second Place: Balqees Ades-yan, Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Honorable Mentions: Caiden Krempel, The Constitution: Holes in Democracy; Melissa Tchoudja and Florence Maybrick, A Case of Gender, Justice and the Fight for Women's Rights

Individual Performance

First Place: Sanari Khermiche, Our Bodies, but Where Is Our Choice?

Second Place: Emerijesu Emakpor, The Atlanta Child Murders

Individual Website

First Place: Sophia Dennis, Child Labor during the 1900s

Second Place: Natalie Roecun, The Khmer Rouge

Group Website

First Place: Andrea Campos and Andre Ocon Fonseca, Mendez vs Westminster: The Responsibility of Advocating for Mexican-American Educational Equity

Second Place: Dayami Lucero Herrera and Micah Khurshid, The Zoot Suit Riot: How It Began and Ended

GES Grounds Cleanup



PHOTO BY JOEL SAGE

School grounds cleanup participants pose for a photo.

Greenbelt Elementary PTA held a school grounds cleanup. It was originally scheduled for January 20 (MLK Day), a day of service, but was rescheduled for the Presidents Day holiday, Monday, February 17, due to weather.

Greenbelt Public Works loaned trash grabbers and many families came out to help beautify the school, despite the cold, windy day. The volunteers collected a lot of trash around the school grounds, including a shopping cart.



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Greenbelt Women

Angella Foster Makes Dance Accessible to her Students

by Ryan Colasanti

Amazing. Compassionate. Passionate. Dedicated. Those are just some of the words Jessica O’Roark, Kelly McLaughlin and Kelly’s 8-year-old daughter Evalena used to describe Angella Foster, the director of dance programs for the Greenbelt Dance Studio.

“I think it’s really fun,” Evalena said about her experience as a student of Foster’s.

Foster first arrived in Greenbelt while she was attending graduate school at the University of Maryland pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in dance choreography. During her first year on campus, Foster worked as an assistant to the community engagement specialist who enlisted her help in organizing an event in Greenbelt. Foster immediately fell in love with the community that reminded her a bit of home.

“We both grew up in Kentucky,” said Foster referring to herself and her husband. “I moved around a lot as a kid, but then we sort of settled for a while in this little town that has a similar vibe to Greenbelt. ... And I was like ‘Oh, it kind of feels sort of like home’”.

Foster started working at the studio shortly after graduating from the University of Maryland. The program was small when she first came aboard, which allowed her time to continue pursuing professional dance opportunities as well as running her own dance company. As her family started to grow, she diverted more of her attention to building up the Greenbelt program to where it stands today, with close to 30 classes available, Foster said. But there is more to this program and to Foster’s teaching style.

Individual Focus

“A lot of dance teachers focus on curriculum,” said McLaughlin, who is a teacher at the studio. “The way Angella has crafted the Greenbelt Dance Studio’s classes and the way it’s leveled is much more individual.”

McLaughlin has a unique perspective of Foster’s teaching ability, having been a student of Foster’s herself. The two met in North Carolina while McLaughlin was training at a ballet conservatory. Foster taught contemporary dance. The two formed a bond and when they both found themselves in Greenbelt, Foster asked McLaughlin to help teach at the studio.

“I said, ‘I’ll come back for one semester,’ and three years later here I am,” McLaughlin said, laughing.

One of the many things McLaughlin admires about Foster’s style of teaching is that she aims to make dance accessible for all kids, no matter their circumstances. Foster strives to understand each and every student. She takes time to learn the goals of her dancers so she can understand how to propel the student to that goal, whether that be to pursue a professional career or simply to have fun.

Foster’s program has its own standards and structure, but what makes it special is that the structure is built in a way that allows the student to thrive as themselves



Angella Foster, right, with her daughter Adelina at Greenbelt's 2023 production of The Nutcracker



Angella Foster directs dancers during a rehearsal for 2024's production of The Snow Queen.

rather than a product of the system.

“Our goal here is to create classes that create a container in which students feel welcome, they feel okay to be themselves in that environment, but they are also held accountable to the material in a certain way at the level they can be,” Foster said.

Family Appreciation

That attention and immense care is not lost on those who send their children to study under Foster and her staff.

“It’s always been reassuring to have your kids with people and in places where they feel comfortable and supported,” said O’Roark. “And I have felt that whether it’s Angella or some of the other instructors it’s just been a great environment for both of my children who dance.”

O’Roark offered an example of Foster’s dedication to her students referencing a situation that occurred during this year’s winter performance of the Snow Queen, in which O’Roark served as parent liaison as a go-between for instructors and parents.

One family had never participated in the culminating performance because it interfered with their ability to attend church on Sunday, said O’Roark. Foster understood this and decided to double cast the role allowing the student to perform and showcase

their talents without having to compromise something important to them. The action seems like a simple solution, but it shows the level of care Foster directs to every student no matter the circumstance.

Life Lessons

Foster’s impact on her students extends far beyond pirouettes and pliés. She finds a way to empower and build confidence in her students, pushing them to be the best they can be in all facets of life, and yet she’s always there with kindness and empathy when a student is in need. Foster cares greatly about her students and that relationship is rewarding to all.

“It’s really satisfying ... for them to want to talk to me and connect with me just because I taught them when they were younger and it was a positive experience for them,” said Foster about seeing former and current students while out and about in the community. “You made a difference.”

Ryan Colasanti is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



Black History Month

Black Women’s Heroism Celebrated

by Melissa Sites

On February 19, Greenbelt Cinema presented a special showing of The Six Triple Eight, a deeply moving depiction of heroism, ingenuity and determination, written and directed by Tyler Perry. The Six Triple Eight, officially the Women’s Army Corps 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, was 855 African American women deployed to Birmingham, England in 1945 to sort through a backlog of 17 million pieces of mail. The battalion was given six months to complete the Herculean task, which they conquered in half that time by working in shifts 24/7. They not only had to contend with classified troop movements and incomplete addresses, but also care packages containing food that had attracted destructive hordes of rodents. Their motto was “No Mail, Low Morale.”

The movie lends heartbreak and triumph to the slightly fictionalized story of Lena Derriecott Bell King (Ebony Obsidian). Depicted as a sorrowful but determined teenager, Lena becomes a soldier under the tough, demanding and inspirational leadership of Captain Charity Adams (Kerry Washington), who achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and who received the honor of having a fort named after her in 2023 – Fort Gregg-Adams in Virginia, formerly Fort Lee, the only fort named after African Americans.

The true history portrayed in the film was made even more compelling at the Greenbelt Cinema screening due to the special guests in attendance. Retired Master Sergeant Elizabeth Anne Helm-Frazier, a local expert on

the history and significance of the 6888th, sponsored the evening and led a question-and-answer session after the screening. Her copy of the book written by Lt. Col. Adams, One Woman’s Army: A Black Officer Remembers the WAC, was bristling with post-it notes. “Those are my favorite parts,” Helm-Frazier quipped.

Another guest was historian Kevin Hymel, whose February 2019 article, WAC Corporal Lena Derriecott and the 6888th Central Postal Battalion (available online), was optioned by Tyler Perry as the basis for the movie. After Hymel interviewed Lena, she continued to call, saying, “Kevin, I just remembered another story.”

Stanley Earley III, the son of Lt. Col. Adams, confirmed that a big moment in the film, when his mother stands up to a racist officer, saying, – “Over my dead body, sir!” – actually occurred, and that his mother was only around 27 years old at the time. Earley met Washington on set, mentioning to her that his mother always wore yellow gloves. He said, “Kerry yelled ‘wardrobe!’” And the yellow gloves made it into one of the movie’s final scenes.

Four re-enactors dressed in authentic uniforms were warmly received by the crowd: John McCaskill and Marvin-Alonzo Grier, representing the Army Air Forces/Tuskegee Airmen; Dierdre Harris, representing the Army Nurse Corps/Tuskegee Army Nurse Corps; and George Hardy, representing the Army Armored Battalion. A book talk, Memories

See **HEROISM**, page 13



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New Book Takes a New Look At Alcoholics Anonymous

by Joan Estenson

A new book by Greenbelter Tom Adams and Washingtonian Joy Jones, *A Marriage That Changed the World: Lois and Bill Wilson and the Addiction Recovery Movement*, aims to fill in missing information about the development of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) and related Twelve Step programs.

Adams moved from Hyattsville to Greenbelt 13 years ago. “We moved here for walkability and we’ve never been disappointed.” Though not a Greenbelt resident, his co-author Jones is a big fan of the Greenbelt Cinema, preferring its intimacy to modern multiplexes.

Adams started thinking about writing the book in the 1990s but began when he retired eight years ago. He has rewritten it many times thanks to more research and feedback. Jones, who has published several books including fiction, began as Adams’ cheerleader, urging him to write the book. She describes her contribution this way: “Tom wrote the play-by-play. I’m the color commentator.”

Many familiar with A.A. know Bill Wilson and Bob Smith as the founders of A.A. Adams and Jones’ book acknowledges that A.A. would not exist without the contributions of Lois Wilson, who also co-founded Al-Anon. Adams saw that Lois Wilson hadn’t been acknowledged.

Adams said, “Alcoholism is a family disease. One alcoholic affects four, five, 10 other family members but the family dimension gets lost. I wanted to widen the lens, discussing not just the individual addicts but those around them.”

The co-authors had different emphases in their research. Jones focused on the marriage and Adams focused on how Twelve Step programs have changed the world.

Research started at the Stepping Stones Foundation, the Wilsons’ original home in Katonah, N.Y., now a museum and archive, and at the A.A. World Service, among other places.

Adams and Jones put a lot of effort into understanding Lois. Jones describes Lois’ evolution: “In the beginning she thought Bill was perfect, and when he started drinking she thought she

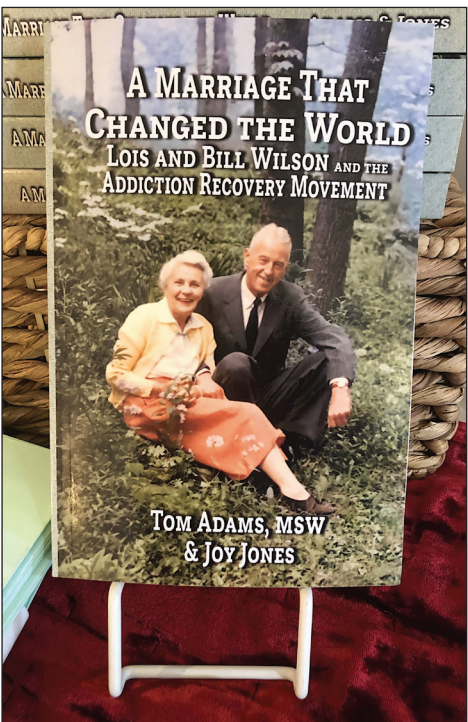


Photo of Bill and Lois Wilson on the book cover taken by Art D. and used courtesy of Stepping Stones Archive

could fix him. She finally realized she could only fix herself.” One pivotal point in her journey was after Bill got sober and they were attending meetings. Bill was rushing her one day and she got angry and threw a shoe at him. She was more surprised at her anger than Bill was. She realized she was angry because she was getting no more attention now that he was sober than she did while he was drinking, and she felt neglected. It was then she realized, as had Smith’s wife, that they needed to work the same program that their husbands did, which led to the founding of Al-Anon.

There was an evolution for Jones, too, while working on the book. In the beginning she thought the Wilsons were “very smart, very spiritual, paragons of

See BOOK, page 13

MEALS continued from page 1

programs and businesses in their districts will not be receiving the amount of funds to distribute that they have in the past, they’re told. They’re not sure what to expect as they submit their usual applications for funding over the next couple of weeks.

Meals on Wheels also serves a lot of the Greenbelt community with funding from CARES, Ealley told the News Review. They also receive donations from community members, but those are intermittent and difficult to rely on, especially as people in the community face unemployment, Ealley notes. CARES has just signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with Meals on Wheels to continue funds for meals for the next 18 months, said Director Liz Park. They’ll still be utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which the city has been able to reallocate, says Park. When the first round of ARPA money was set to run out, Ealley said Greenbelt participants were polled to see if they could or would pay the \$6 a day themselves and the vast majority said they would choose not to.

Meals on Wheels’ secretary Maria Newsom worries that if federal funding is frozen and their revenues dry up, seniors forced to self-pay the \$6 a day for three meals will begin to cut back, so that some who received meals three to four times a week might get them only twice. They’ve known recipients try to stretch their food for more days to make it last longer, perhaps relying more on relatives or other food or eating less. Currently, only about five Greenbelt residents self-pay.

Most recipients are 60 years of age or older but “we just can’t turn our back on anyone,” says Ealley. So, occasionally they serve folks who are younger. They’ve helped a pregnant woman with cerebral palsy who couldn’t get out to get food for



The rising cost of groceries is impacting Meals on Wheels as they prepare for reduced funding.

the duration of her pregnancy, for example. They also serve a married couple with health concerns, caring for an adult child with disabilities while one spouse has Alzheimer’s. Meals on Wheels brings food to the couple and their son, who is part of the household. Some recipients also share the food they receive with their pets, whom they may struggle to afford but whose companionship is important to them.

While those who can pay are charged \$6 a day for three meals, the real cost of the daily meals is about \$25 to \$30, depending on what is being served, says Ealley. But amid fears about funding, those costs are rising. “There’s no question about it,” she says. The eggs she usually orders were no longer available this week. She had to go to another distributor and the cost was higher. The big impact is going to come in the next few weeks, she believes, particularly when tariffs kick in. “We rely on other countries for products,” says Ealley. They get fruits and vegetables from Mexico, for example.

“We’ll have to make some hard decisions,” she says, “whether to cut down and only give

two meals a day or whether to take a look at who will be most severely impacted [and serve fewer people]. We’ve already cut down.” They used to be able to give people a snack in addition to their three meals and they used to serve a slice of bread, too. One of their biggest expenses is a low-sugar juice and some of their recipients need Ensure – a product whose cost has doubled in the last four years, says Ealley.

They’ve been creative about funding in the past, launching a Sponsor a Senior campaign, for example. They also receive a donation of 50 sandwiches each week from a College Park restaurant and would welcome donations from other area restaurants. Individuals can donate on their website. They’re actively looking for volunteers, some of whom they’ve lost as they had to return to work in person. They’re looking for a grant writer, too. “Whatever people can do for us would be greatly appreciated,” said Ealley. Meals on Wheels of College Park is now in its 51st year. “We’ve been here 50 years and hope to continue many more,” Ealley told the News Review.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred February 24- March 2, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one death; four domestic incidents; two Child Protective Services cases and five mental health diversions, two involving suicide; and two involving missing person cases that were resolved. A third missing juvenile case was also resolved.

On February 25 near 7501 Greenway Center Drive, a vehicle jumped the curb and struck a retention wall; the driver appeared upset and confused but declined assistance. On March 2 near 6103 Breezewood Court, the father of a juvenile arrested with a handgun came to the station regarding two firearms that were missing; police recovered only one of them, but he later found the second firearm.

Robbery

On February 26 at 6:21 p.m. near 5921 Cherrywood Terrace, four men wearing black clothing demanded someone give up his backpack; he complied and the men fled on foot.

On February 28 at 9:43 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man was struck by a known suspect with a handgun, who then demanded money. He took the man's wallet containing his bank cards and was gone when officers arrived.

On February 28 at 1:36 p.m. near 6107 Breezewood Court, a group of juveniles stole someone's property, but left some of his belongings on the ground for him to retrieve.

Assault

On February 23 at 10:15 p.m. near 6460 Capitol Drive, a patron struck the bartender in the face and left the restaurant before officers arrived.

On February 24 at 10:24 a.m. near 9152 Edmonston Road, middle school girls were fighting.

On March 1 at 3:40 a.m. near 5833 Cherrywood Terrace, a man was assaulted while visiting friends; officers took him to the hospital for treatment.

Handgun Arrest

On March 1 at 7:03 p.m. near 5997 Springhill Drive, a woman called about three males near her apartment, saying one of them had a gun. Officer arrested them and recovered a handgun.

Vandalism

On February 25 near 6038 Greenbelt Road, a front door was damaged.

On February 28 at 9:10 p.m. near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive, a man was arrested after damaging property inside the hotel.

On March 2 near 6108 Breezewood Court, juveniles used rocks to damage a door, causing small dents and chipping the paint.

Fraud

On February 25 near 120 Westway, a man's credit card number was "masked" by a website; multiple transactions were made. A report was filed with the Federal Trade Commission.

On February 27 near 6440 Cherrywood Lane, a woman was notified by email of an unauthorized Best Buy purchase made using her debit card; her bank required a police report to reverse the transaction.

On February 28 near 6108

Breezewood Drive, a woman was contacted by someone on social media to replace her vehicle's windshield; she sent the money but he never came to make the repair.

On March 1 near 7312 Wintergreen Court, a man was scammed into giving someone remote access to his account.

Theft and Shoplifting

Packages went missing on February 24 near 5230 Stream Bank Lane, and March 1 near 9012 Breezewood Terrace.

On February 23 at 10:22 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man was found with burglary tools and drug paraphernalia; he was under the influence and was taken to the hospital for treatment.

On February 25 at 7:49 p.m. near 6298 Greenbelt Metro Drive, when a man met someone to sell a gold chain, the person snatched the chain and fled.

On February 25 near 5910 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise.

On February 26 at 5:31 p.m. near 6040 Greenbelt Road, a man wearing black clothing entered the rear door of the store and took a purse. It was later found behind the store in a dumpster with the wallet removed.

On February 26 at 6:11 p.m. near 121 Centerway, two boys stole merchandise.

On February 27 at 12:29 p.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, a man wearing a black coat took merchandise.

On February 27 at 2:45 p.m. near 7495 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise.

On February 27 at 4:30 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a girl concealed items and passed all points of sale; she was later released to her parent.

On February 27 at 4:43 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a suspect fled on foot, but officers found and arrested him.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Four vehicles were stolen: on February 27 near 9132 Edmonston Terrace; on March 1 near 7819 Mandan Road, a 2015 Ford Explorer (Md. 1ET8963), and near 7802 Hanover Parkway, a 2013 Hyundai, located later in Clinton with heavy rear-end damage; and on March 2 near 7732 Hanover Parkway, a 2021 White Acura TLX (Md. 1DH7776).

Theft from Auto

All four tires were stolen on February 24: near 7702 Hanover Parkway from a Honda Accord; near 7901 Mandan Road from a Honda CR-V; and near 9010 Breezewood from a 2025 Toyota Camry, which had a window

broken and several items missing.

On February 24 near 9006 Breezewood Terrace, a 2012 Nissan Versa had a window broken and was rummaged through.

On February 26 near 7615 Ora Glen Drive, a rear license plate (Md. 3ER5021) was stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On February 28 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a vehicle window was broken.

On March 1 at 5:30 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Capitol Drive, a man walking on Greenbelt Road threw a rock at a vehicle driving by.

On March 2 near 7509 Mandan Road, a vehicle door lock was broken.

City Notes

For the Public Servant Summit at Greenbelt Middle School (GMS), the city provided traffic control, shuttle services and parking assistance. Public Safety, Community Center, Constituent Services, Police and school officials attended a Know Your Rights discussion. Economic Development recruited employers at a nearby job fair and Public Information facilitated Read Across America at GMS.

Planning and Community Development inspected 40 rentals and Information Technology helped police set up new body cameras.

Animal Control evaluated and disposed of two reported dead birds, one a great blue heron. Environmental welcomed Park Rangers and 11 volunteers for a Presidents Day workday, removing invasive plants and caging trees.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center hosted a resource fair and promoted their after-school program to GMS. Community Center staff registered many summer campers.

Arts opened the Youth Musical, supported by many departments. For seniors, Therapeutic Recreation hosted a Tech Café and a dinner theater excursion.

Park Rangers supported the Community Orchestra concert and the Museum received donated artworks.

SUMMIT continued from page 1

and unconstitutional. The recent DOGE actions, they said, do not properly adhere to, or are even counter to, legally established constitutional and legislative governmental rules, laws, policies, procedures and regulations, and have been ruled illegal and/or unconstitutional by several federal judges. Attendees were given the opportunity to speak and as expected, most were angry about the abrupt, chaotic firings.

In the gym, various experts spoke to large crowds, giving practical advice and offering guidance in dealing with the financial and life challenges suddenly thrust upon unsuspecting federal workers.

The summit also included about 20 tables set up in the hallways, offering resources and up-to-date targeted employment information about open jobs, job applications, union support and services available to recently fired workers, as well as upcoming organized protests of the DOGE cuts.

There were so many attendees at the summit that the school's parking lot was filled to capacity. The City of Greenbelt provided a shuttle service to and from the Beltway Plaza parking lot, and many attendees parked in the nearby Franklin Park neighborhood.



A public servant summit was held at Greenbelt Middle School on Saturday, March 1.



- Photos courtesy City of Greenbelt

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Obituaries continued from p.4

Yesnes Bladimir Sandoval Mata; and countless aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews in North Carolina and El Salvador. Romell was preceded in death by his grandfather Virgilio Roca Garcia.

A private family viewing took place on Tuesday, January 27, at Kozlak-Radulovich Northeast

Funeral Chapel in Minneapolis, followed by cremation. A burial service at Maryland National Memorial Park in Beltsville followed by a Celebration of Life is being planned for late spring with details to be announced by the family at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory

of Romell may be made to Popular Spring Animal Sanctuary in Poolesville. Cards may be sent to 6 Greendale Place in Greenbelt, and friends and colleagues are encouraged to share memories online and add to Romell’s tribute wall at kozlakradulovich.com/obituaries.

In Memoriam

Kathy Gigliotti

by Rick Ransom

Kathleen “Kathy” Gigliotti (Houchens) was a leader at the American Legion and the Fire Department. Kathy, 63, died on February 12, 2025, in Silver Spring. Her online obituary states that she was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Hyattsville as the youngest of 14 siblings. She attended St. Jerome’s Elementary School and later earned her GED from Elizabeth Seton High School. She embarked on a career in administrative work, beginning at Foremost in the early 1980s before moving on to Rent-A-Crate in 2000.

Kathy initially met her husband, Greg Gigliotti, while working as a teen at a Roy Rogers restaurant in College Park. However, they would not truly connect until a few years later on a blind date. Greg says it must have been destiny. Kathy was familiar with some of the Greenbelt girls as she attended school with them at Elizabeth Seton High School.

Greg, of course, introduced Kathy to his friends and life in Old Greenbelt. Her love for sports was undeniable – she enjoyed watching all kinds of games but was especially passionate about cheering for her beloved Washington Commanders (Redskins). As the wife of a volunteer Greenbelt Firefighter Captain and later the Commander of the Greenbelt American Legion, Kathy threw herself into both auxiliary organizations, working tirelessly at organizational and service tasks. She was tending bar at the Legion on the day she died. Her friend and associate at the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, Kathy Reynolds, wrote, “You made this world a happier place by your smile, kindness and thoughtfulness to all you knew or met. You always gave the biggest hugs and you never failed to say ‘I love you girl!’”

That was what stood out to me as I got to know Kathy and Greg better. Whenever something needed to be done, she had her hand up volunteering to do it. She met her commitments with determination and reliability. She served as president of the American Legion Auxiliary as well. As testimony to the many lasting friendships she formed in both auxiliary organizations and in the Greenbelt community, Gasch’s funeral home was filled with many guests during her service, some packed into the hallway. The reception afterward at the Legion was also standing room only.

Dana Coleman, her friend and mate at the Legion, said “You always had my back, and I know you are still here now.” Other comments included: “Thank you for doing all the things that



Kathy Gigliotti

people needed, even when they did not know they needed them done,” and what Kathy always told everyone else: “Make sure you tell your loved ones that you love them.” Julie Patterson, a manager at the Legion, said “There were 14 children listed in that family, but the big secret is that I was the 15th. She was truly my sister.”

Kathy dedicated herself to her family even more ardently and to children specifically, both her own and those around her. She and Greg raised three children, and Kathy was active in the lives of her seven grandchildren and her numerous nieces and nephews. Many of her family members shared loving memories at both gatherings. In 2017, she took time off to care for her first granddaughter, a role she cherished deeply. She later returned to the workforce at ReStream until 2024.

Christy Irving, daughter of late Recreation Director Hank Irving, wrote of another role Kathy filled. “Last year, Kathy stood up at my dad’s memorial and spoke about my parents and her role as second mom to ALL of us Greenbelt kids. I told her later how much [my twin] Kelly and I appreciated her kindness but I noted she didn’t have to do that. She told me she absolutely had to because, as ‘second mom,’ it was her job. And she told me how proud she was of who Kelly and I have become. She did that a lot. That was Kathy. Generous, fierce, selfless and there when we needed her.”

The published obituary concludes “... Kathy found joy in scenic walks and spending time at her second home in Lake Anna, Virginia. Her favorite moments were spent basking in the sun at the beach or pier while watching her grandchildren play in the lake. [Her] legacy is one of love, laughter and unwavering devotion to those she held dear.”

As listed in the obituary, Kathy is survived by her husband, Gregory Gigliotti; her children, Craig May, Jake Gigliotti (Lindsey) and Anthony Gigliotti (Sarah); and her grandchildren

Ryan May, Josh May, Andrew Gigliotti, Owen Gigliotti, Anthony Gigliotti, Emilia Gigliotti and Gianna Gigliotti. She is also survived by her siblings Bernadette Zanger, Regina Cabbage, Dolores Giesen, JoAnn Reynolds (Freddy), Michael Houchens (Pamm), Laureen Grothe, Patrick Houchens, Rita Lukacsina (Thomas), Charlene Hoagland, Richard Houchens (Christine), Robert Houchens (Linda) and Alice DeGroat (Danny); and many, many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister Susan Fields and her parents, Bernadette Costello and Williams Houchens.



Lenten Agape Meals At Community Church

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, will be hosting its annual series of Agape Meals on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. from March 12 through April 9. The event is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be donated to the missions of the church.

Agape meals are a Lenten tradition for the church and named using the Greek word for the unconditional, unearned love that God has for all. Each simple meal of soup, bread and salad is preceded by a short devotional lesson. These events are a celebration of Lent and intended to promote spiritual reflection while providing an opportunity for fellowship. This year’s theme is Unraveling Lent.

The church is located at 1 Hillside Road and is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming to all.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

Interfaith Panel Explores Impact of Acts of Kindness

by Carol Griffith



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

The Interfaith Discussion on Small Acts of Kindness held on February 3 at Greenbelt Community Church featured panelists from several faith perspectives. From left, YaYa, Rev. Clara Young, Rabbi Saul Oresky, moderator David Alexander and Dr. Hema Sidhu

Can performing acts of kindness help build community? Can those acts help one find peace, which is especially important in current times?

An interfaith panel discussed acts of kindness and such questions from the viewpoint of three faith traditions and a “religion: none” at an event jointly sponsored by the Prince George’s County Office of Human Rights and Greenbelt Community Church on Monday, February 3. Rabbi Saul Oresky of Mishkan Torah represented Judaism; Hema Sidhu, Ph.D., spoke for the Sikh faith; and Reverend Clara Young of Greenbelt Community Church explained the viewpoint of the Protestant Christian tradition. YaYa, a graduate of Union Theological Seminary who defines her philosophy as spiritual seeking, represented the religiously unaffiliated “nones.”

The discussion was lively and insightful, mostly due to the humorous yet thought-provoking moderation of the discussion by David Alexander, a member of the Community Church and Toastmasters. About 80 people from the community attended.

The discussion began with each panelist explaining their philosophy or faith perspective concerning small acts of kindness intended to make the world a better place. There was much consensus among the panelists’ views: a small act of kindness can effect a big change in the world; kindness is a sign of faith; to be kind is to see the humanity of another; and kindness is the most important virtue a person might possess. Oresky summed

up the discussion with “To be human is to be kind to each other.”

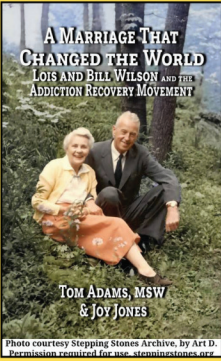
Another topic the panel discussed was how to interact kindly with people who see the world in a much different way. Sidhu explained that in the Sikh belief, all are part of the “oneness” of humanity and that we are all from the same source. YaYa stated that we must reserve any judgment of others for God. As a practical approach, Young suggested that one choose to listen to others and search for common ground.

Alexander broached the topic of how one might be motivated to perform small acts of kindness when the recipient is anonymous or absent, using the example of returning a store’s shopping cart from the parking lot. Panelists’ thoughts concluded that such acts may increase mindfulness, and that acting in faith is counter-cultural.

The discussion concluded after questions from the audience about how best to teach children to act in kindness, and the role empathy for others plays in performing acts of kindness. Young summarized the basis of acting kindly as simply loving one’s neighbor as oneself.

GATe recorded the discussion for future viewing on its website.





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Greenbelt ASL Community Celebrates Brunch Milestone

by Alice A. Mitchell



Greenbelt's American Sign Language (ASL) group meets for brunch on January 26 to celebrate its 15th anniversary.

The New Deal Café was alive with warm hugs, good food and joyous visual communication on Sunday, January 26 as the Greenbelt ASL (American Sign Language) community celebrated 15 years of Sunday ASL Brunch together. The community is an amalgam of Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing residents of Greenbelt and surrounding communities. Those in attendance communicated using ASL to share information about themselves and to discuss current events. The group continues to welcome those who are learning ASL and are skilled enough to participate in the conversation.

Formerly called “Deaf Brunch,” ASL Brunch was founded in January 2010 when three friends brunching with a purpose were joined by a fourth. I was introduced to and learned ASL through a combination of coursework at Gallaudet University, community groups and socializing with Deaf friends while living in Maryland. However, I moved away for a time and did not have regular contact with people who are Deaf so my ASL skills suffered: Use it or lose it! After living in eight states, I decided to move back to Maryland, the place I liked the best.

After returning to Maryland, I met Rachel Channon, who is a hearing person, and her Deaf friend. With their patience, I struggled with what remained of my ASL communication skills and communicated my desire to connect with the local Deaf community. “We should eat brunch together at the New Deal,” my new friend suggested. “People will see us using ASL and join us if they also use ASL.” So the Brunch began as a gathering of three friends. Word spread and on Sunday, January 24, 2010, Sara Johnston, who is Deaf and a native ASL user, joined the group. At that point, Deaf Brunch became official.

The group continued to grow and the New Deal Café purchased a round table for Deaf Brunch; because round seating is more conducive to visual communication than a long table. With the financial help of Deaf Brunch participants, the New Deal Café also purchased a window shade so those signing would not be obscured by bright background sunlight. The Deaf Brunch participants also made donations to the Café’s fundraising efforts over the

years. Fast forward 15 years and the group is still going strong.

The ASL Brunch group has aided the Greenbelt community by helping establish sign language interpreter request procedures for Greenbelt Homes, Inc. and the City of Greenbelt, and they worked with the city to establish movie-captioning options for the Greenbelt Cinema.

ASL Brunch meets every Sunday from 10:30 a.m. until about noon at one of two restaurants that have been exceptionally supportive: Cedars of Lebanon (1st,

3rd and 5th Sundays) or New Deal Café (2nd and 4th Sundays). Approximately 20 Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing people enjoyed brunch together this past Sunday and we continue to welcome signers of all levels and encourage students who are learning.

We maintain the Greenbelt ASL Community Facebook page as well as a Google group (email list) and post our brunch dates on Meetup. Newcomers are welcome.

HEROISM continued from page 9

of a Tuskegee Airman Nurse, will be held March 7 at the College Park Aviation Museum, where McCaskill works.

The women of the 6888th were not acknowledged when they returned home from their service in England and France. Many years later, their achievements came to light when only a few were still alive. Filmed inter-

views with some of the women, including Lena Derriecott, are available online. A granite monument bearing all the names of the 6888th was dedicated in 2018 at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The Military Women’s Memorial in Arlington, Va., has shown a 2019 documentary by James Theres about the 6888th and has an exhibit honoring them. Most importantly, the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor was awarded to them in 2022. Janice Martin, a daughter of the 6888th, attended the cinema event wearing a shirt depicting the gold medal.

September 16 has been approved as National 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day.



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1G6AB5RX960129587

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2C3CDZDJXFH873627

2021 Infiniti Q50
JN1FV7DR8MM88060

2019 BMW
WBAFY4C59KBJ98888

2007 Nissan Titan
1N6BA06A87N239909

BOOK continued from page 10

virtue and everything rolled out as it should.” But she found the couple was like everyone else: “[They] made bad decisions, made good decisions that turned out badly.” She added, “I went from a simplistic view to a more nuanced one [of them].”

Asked what message he would like to have readers take from the book, Adams repeated that he wanted people to widen the lens, to see addiction as a family disease and also to recognize and end societal denial. Although progress has been made in seeing alcoholism as a disease, many other addictions are still seen as character defects, Adams said.

Jones has two lessons she hopes readers take from the book. One, that nothing is accomplished by one charismatic person on their own. There are so many other people and other things that need to be in place. Two, that when you have a difficult situation in your own life, such

as addiction, there is a way out.

Like the many people it took to develop A.A. and other Twelve Step groups, Jones and Adams had much help from many people, including their writers’ group, their agent, editor, designer and proofreader, the many archivists who located research material, the people they interviewed who knew the Wilsons and Smiths and others. By telling the Wilsons’ story Adams and Jones offer hope. Adams said, “It can be hard to know what resources you need and where to find them, especially for family members of addicts.” One of the best resources here in Greenbelt is the Step Club in Roosevelt Center, which offers support for people with many different kinds of addictions.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Wilsons changed the world. According to A.A. World Services there are two million A.A. members in 180 nations,

with 123,000 groups conducted in 100 languages. Al-Anon World Services reports 24,000 Al-Anon Family Groups and 1,500 Alateen groups in 118 countries. Yet according to Centers for Disease Control statistics, in the U.S. there are 488 deaths per day from excessive alcohol use, or about 20 every hour.



Co-author Joy Jones chats with Lois Rosado, left, at the open house.



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NOTICE

MISHKAN TORAH invites you to join us for our Purim festivities this year! On Sunday, March 9, at 11am, come by for our Purim carnival - with games, crafts, hamantaschen, pizza, and fun for kids and adults of all ages. Then, on Thursday, March 13, come back for our annual multilingual Megillah reading and Purim spiel, starting at 7pm. Learn more at MishkanTorah.org, and respond with the names of kids and adults attending to RSVP@MishkanTorah.org.

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CLASSIFIED: \$4.00 minimum for 15 words. \$1 for each 1-5 additional words. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10.90/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$16.35). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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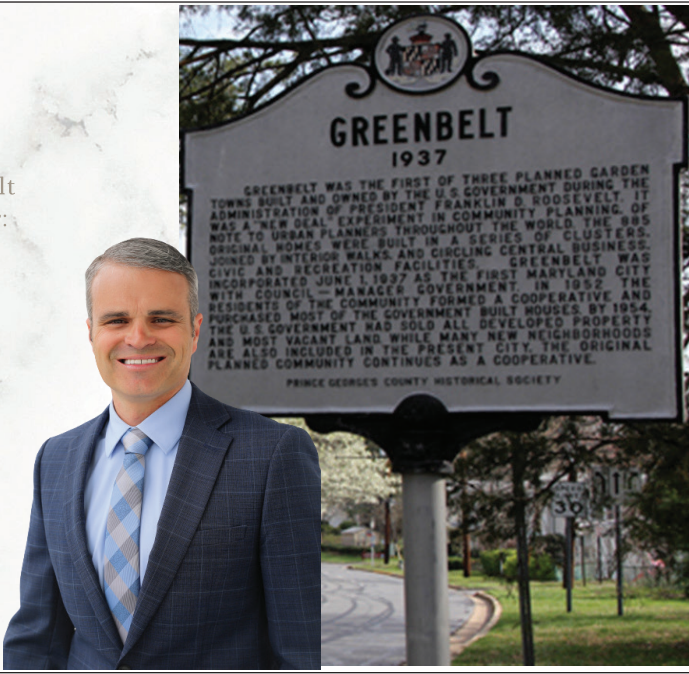


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Sports

Roosevelt Boys Basketball Team Wins Their First Game in 4A State Playoffs

by Patrick Gleason

After a challenging end to the regular season that included tough losses to Laurel and Wise High Schools, the Eleanor Roosevelt High School boys basketball team entered the Maryland 4A state playoffs looking for redemption. They found it in a 74-62 first round victory over Wise on February 28. The Raiders and Pumas traded baskets throughout the first half, but the momentum shifted to the Raiders after a five-point swing thanks to senior guard Dione Wells. After hitting a three-pointer from the right side, Wells pounced on the Puma in-bounds pass and drained a mid-range jumper, enthusing the Friday night crowd. Roosevelt maintained this momentum to halftime and never relented in the second half as Wise looked uncomfortable throughout the night thanks to the pressure from a high-energy Roosevelt defense. Senior Benaiah Nwosu furthered the Raider momentum with a three-pointer followed by a long-range two in the second half, keeping the Pumas at a safe distance; however, it was Nwosu's alley-oop that frenzied the crowd and closed the door on any potential Puma comeback. Nwosu reached high above his head to corral senior Amarius Sekajipo's lob before slamming it home. With the dunk, the Raiders avenged their regular season loss and progressed to a second-



- Photos by Alphanmadou Jallow

The Raiders advance to a region final rematch with the Flowers Jaguars on March 6.

round matchup with the DuVal Tigers whom they defeated with a start-to-finish 61-47 victory. Led by junior Donte Whitaker the Raiders rushed to a 10-0 first quarter lead that the Tigers never overcame; the Raiders now visit the C.H. Flowers Jaguars for a region final matchup on March 6.



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Local Business Alliance Honors Four at Martin’s Crosswinds Gala

by Melissa Sites

The Greenbelt Business Alliance (GBA) assembled at Martin’s Crosswinds on January 23 to hold their First Annual Awards Gala. A ballroom full of representatives from local businesses and nonprofits came to enjoy the dinner, learn more about the alliance and celebrate the impressive nominees and winners of the GBA’s first set of four awards.

An additional highlight of the evening was the introduction of the “Greenbelt Guide,” located at greenbelt.biz, an online “buy local” directory that has been in the making over the past three years. Tim Mitchell, the founder of the Young Entrepreneurs Society (YES), began work on the guide, helped by a grant from the National League of Cities and including 1900 publicly available business entries. GBA founding member Paul Ricketts can answer questions from local businesses about how to be part of the guide (pricketts@trainace.edu).

Awards

The first award, Best New Business of the Year, went to CCI Health Services, whose mission, they said, is to deliver high-quality, accessible care to our community members, leading the way to a more equitable health care system for everyone. Other nominees included the local Royal Farms, which opened in August 2024; Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union, serving 19,500 members and businesses around the county; LaCurva Tex Mex Bar and Grill; and Ultimate Web Design.

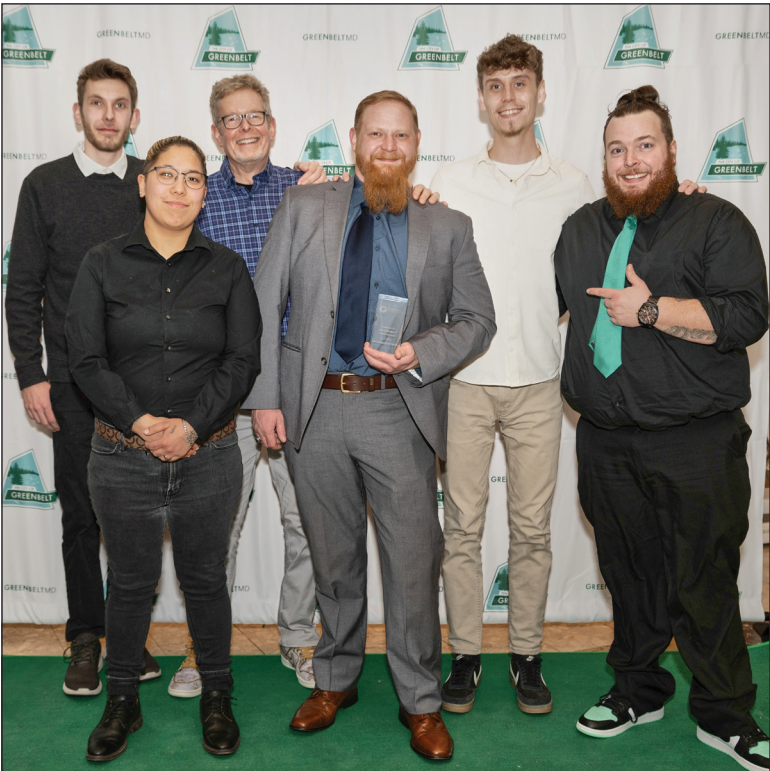
The award for Best Employer of the Year went to Generous Joe’s, operated by chef Aaron Mengel. A number of Generous Joe’s staff members helped receive the award. Other nominees included Dr. Sandra Burton; Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation; Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy; Civility Management Solutions; and YES.

The award for Best Nonprofit/Co-op went to Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy. Established in 1984, Co-op is comprised of nearly 11,000 members. Greenbelt Consumer Services opened a grocery store in 1937, which was purchased in 1939 by “the Greenbelt Cooperative” as part of a variety of different stores. This group was dismantled in the early 1980s, when Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative formed the current Co-op. Other nonprofit nominees included CCI, Washington Ear, Greenbelt Rotary and The SPACE: Free Art for All.

The category of Greenbelt Icon included several true icons with wins and nominations in other categories, including Greenbelt Homes, Inc.; Generous Joe’s, a Roosevelt Center hotspot since 1966; Greenbelt Cinema; and Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy. The winner, and site of the gala, was Martin’s Crosswinds. Several presenters mentioned they had attended their senior proms at the location.

Guests

Distinguished guests at the gala included Maryland State Senator Alonzo Washington; State Delegate Nicole Williams; Prince George’s County Councilmember Ingrid Watson; Greenbelt May-



Aaron Mengel, center, poses with employees of Generous Joe’s at the Greenbelt Business Alliance gala.



Attendees at the Business Alliance gala, from left, Shatira Muhammad, Joellyn Furmage, Harold Muscadin, Claudia Gonzales, Ashley Jones, Jude Chenet, Kim Kash and Mayor Emmett Jordan



From left, Caitlin McGrath, Oliver Gayken, and Mayor Emmett Jordan (standing)

or Emmett Jordan; City Councilmembers Silke Pope, Jenni Pompei, Danielle McKinney, and Kristen Weaver; and City Manager Josué Salmerón, along with many important leaders from the local business and nonprofit community.

Key GBA People

Current GBA board members include Chair S. Mona Reza of Stellar 5 Consulting, LLC; Co-Chair Joellyn Furmage of Holiday Inn & Candlewood Suites; Treasurer Maya Robinson of Future Proof Accounting; and

Secretary Johnine Clark, attorney. Founders of GBA include former chairs Paul Ricketts of TrainACE Academy of Computer Education and Kim Kash of Compass Realty; Jessica Wilson of CCI; Michael Hartman of New Deal Café; and the late Marc “Kap” Kapastin, Esq., of Quantum, owner of Beltway Plaza. Other gala sponsors included the City of Greenbelt; Gaitan Strategic Group, ObjectiveHealth; and Dr. Raja M. Din.



Members of the city council and Alonzo Washington pose for a selfie taken by Ingrid Watson at the Greenbelt Business Alliance gala.



Dan Gillotte, general manager of the Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy, poses with Mayor Emmett Jordan.

- Photos by Milena Acevedo

Out & About in Greenbelt



Mahjongg Club members from left, Carol Shaw, Annie Haber, Marsha Zielinski and Abby Crowley compete in a tournament at Temple Beth Ami in Rockville on February 16.



Attendees enjoy the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Greenbelt Community Church United Church of Christ.